CLASSIFICATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

FLD 446

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

> Political Information: Attitude of Prominent Northeast Citizens Toward Shooting of Students

PLACE ACQUIRED

SUBJECT

25X1C

DATE 25X1X OF INFO

■ 25X1A

DATE DISTR.

REPORT NO.

27 July 1948

NO. OF PAGES 1

40504

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

There is increasing resentment among Northeasterners over the failure of Manking and Pelping government officials to make redress for the shooting of Northeastern students in Peiping on 5 July. Prominent citizens, members of the Mortheast People's Association, have made formal protest to Manking over lack of action in investigating the shooting. This group has informed Nanking that the Northeast will declare its independence from the Central Government unless remedial steps satisfactory to it are taken by August. There is no evidence that WEI Li-mang will join in such a movement unless it is initiated by FU Tso-yi in North China.

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Comment. These prominent citizens largely control the Northeastern population. The shooting of Northeast students in Peiping has given these citizens an excuse to press their demands for economic equality for the Northeast. It is doubtful that this episode will result in an immediate move for independence, but it does show the trend of thinking among the people. This protest is the first public expression of such a frame of mind. It is only a matter of time until such action will be taken, but an attempt to declare independence without military support would be abortive.)

890.1-1L 115,2-16

> Document No. NO CHANGE in Class. declassified Class. CHANGED TO: TS DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77 Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763 Date: 2.5 APR 1978 By: _ 62



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